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BOEBERT.HOUSE.GOV

October 7, 2021

The Honorable Merrick Garland  
Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland,

I am alarmed by your decision to weaponize the Department of Justice (DOJ) against concerned parents, exercising their First Amendment rights, who dare to oppose the teaching of critical race theory, a repulsive and racist ideology, in their children's schools. This policy change appears to be in response to a letter from the National School Boards Association that claimed American public schools are under "threat" from law-abiding parents and compared some of their actions to a form of "domestic terrorism." Parents have absolutely every right to express their opinions at public school board meetings concerning their children's education. The DOJ's October 4, 2021, press release indicated your office is in possession of new data concerning "an increase in harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence against school board members, teachers, and workers in our nation's public schools."<sup>1</sup> I ask you to provide my office a copy of this information by November 1, 2021, and all the data from previous years that can corroborate this claim. Please compile and provide a list of any political appointees who had a part in crafting and implementing this policy decision as well as any career staffers who made substantive policy edits to the October 4, 2021, memo.<sup>2</sup>

The October 4<sup>th</sup> DOJ press release also states that "the Justice Department will also create specialized training and guidance for local school boards and school administration...on how to capture and preserve evidence of threatening conduct to aid in the investigation and prosecution of these crimes." The implied 'crime' being expressing their frustrations about mask mandates and critical race theory which conveniently run counter to this regime's agenda. This bureaucratic policy change was never agreed to by Congress and is no small thing. It is organizing the tremendous power of the federal government against law-abiding parents.

Also of concern, numerous media organizations have reported that your son-in-law, Xan Tanner, the owner of Panorama Education, is potentially benefiting from this new propaganda operation. PanoramaEd, a Boston-based company backed by Mark Zuckerberg, received \$1.8 million in "emergency" COVID funds through a contract with Fairfax County Public Schools to conduct "social and emotional learning" screening and allow them to conduct "psychometrics" on the school system's 180,000 students.<sup>3</sup> PanoramaEd's website states that it teaches "social and emotional learning (SEL)" and "culturally responsive training" which are deeply rooted in teaching equity programs and critical race theory. These are the exact policies and programs that are causing parents to protest at school board meetings. While your family is personally benefiting from the exact kind of propaganda these parents are protesting, you are using your immense power as Attorney General to stifle their First Amendment rights. Your actions are unconstitutional, and you should have recused yourself from this matter given the clear conflict of interest. Accordingly, I ask that you provide a copy of your recusal list, a copy of your signed ethics pledge, and any documents submitted to the DOJ Departmental Ethics Office during your onboarding or tenure to include any conflicts of interests and communications in which you disclosed your personal and familial relationships with the DOJ by November 1, 2021.

Sincerely,

Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress

<sup>1</sup> [Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff \(justice.gov\)](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/partnership-among-federal-state-local-tribal-and-territorial-law-enforcement-to-address-threats-against-school-administrators-board-members-teachers-and-staff)

<sup>2</sup> [Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff \(justice.gov\)](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/partnership-among-federal-state-local-tribal-and-territorial-law-enforcement-to-address-threats-against-school-administrators-board-members-teachers-and-staff)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/merrick-garland-son-in-law-panorama-zuckerberg>